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MINUTES

TILE

THE SECOND ANNUAL SESTION

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Kolly River Baptist Association,

OND WITH UNION CHURCH,

TANETTE COUNTY, ALABAMA,

ON THE

22d and 21th Pays of September, 1866.

TE C. H. ALA.: UTILELY TILES WATCHWAN" OFFICE. 1866.



MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

North River Baptist Association,

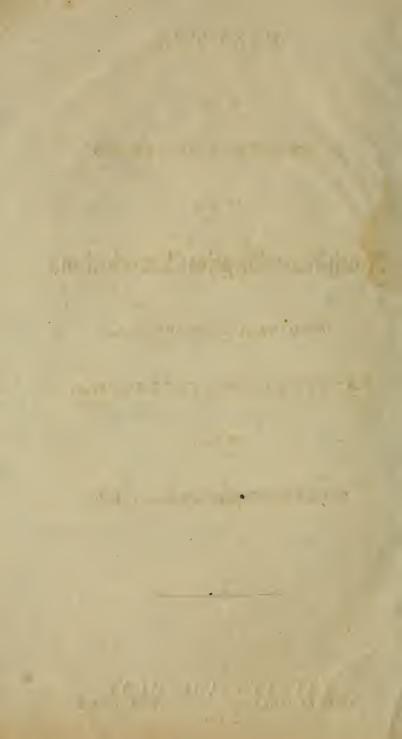
HELD WITH UNION CHURCH,

FAYETTE COUNTY, ALABAMA,

ON THE

22d and 24th Days of September, 1866.

FAYETTE C. H. ALA:
PRINTED AT "THE SOUTHERN WATCHMAN" OFFICE.
1866.



MINUTES.

SATURDAY. September 22d, 1866.
1. The Delegates from the charches comprising the North River Baptist Association, with the congregation, assembled in the new meeting house of Union Church at half past 11 o'clock, and according to appointment of the last Association, the Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder B. V. Shirley, from Acts 2d chap, and 42d verse. "And they contined steadfistly in the Apostle's docume and fellowship, and breaking of bread, and in prayers."

2. After half an hour's recess the Delegates assembled in the old Store House of P. B. Phillips, and the Association was called to order by the former Moderator, and

prayer offered by Elder S. A. Smith.

3. Called for the Letters from the Churches, which were read and the names of Delegates enrolled as follows:

Delegates. Churches. Moses Walters, A. F. Bell and J. E. Bell. Fayetteville, G. Horn, * A. F. Rushing, E. D. Rush-Pilgrims Rest. ing, H Yerby* and J. Walden,* Shepherd, Thos. Bla eney, T. A. Brent, W. Holomou# and J. Savage.* S. Baker, W. G. Vanzant, * W. G. Ba-Hepsebeth, ker and G. W. Kimbrel. Union, J. W. Wade, G. W. Wimberly, James and R. Horton. Mt. Pleasant, Elder J. C. Jones, Elder M. C. Owen,* Eld. W. L. Joues,* N. K. Whitesides*

and D. G. Kirkland.

Liberty Grove, A. Keyton,* H. A. Fergurson and J. B.

Turner.*

Shady Grove, Tuos. L. Willingham, B. Willingham and J. W. Roberts.

Providence, Wm. Cobb, Wm. Randolph, William Swindle, * S. H. Carr, * Calloway Deason* and J. B. Turner.

Mt. Joy No. 1, Y. R. Amerson and B. M. Kimbrel.* Pleasant Grove, Eld. D. Masco, S. A. Smith, James

Cox, A. Lawson, J. Guttry, W. Sides, Wm. Banks. James Rutledge, P. H. Harris and W. F. Sides.

Samaria, W. L. Hill, D. H. Clifton, W. Banks.* Mt. Carmel, I. Pate, H. Buttes and J. Hyches.*

Lebanon, Geo. Kilgoe and G. Davis.

Bethabara, W. A. Edmonds, J. N. Autry and L.

B. Harbin, jr.

Mt. Olive, B. V. Snirley, W. B. Shirley and Samuel Stephens.

Hopewell, J. P. Lisle, J. R. Tucker and E. J. Johnson.

Mt. Moriah, Jehiel Dyer, P. M. Newton and Wm. H. Brashure.

Mt. Joy No. 2, Elds. A. M. King, R. Adkins, M. Shire.

4. Proceeded to elect a Moderator, Cleik and Corresponding Secretary; whereupon Elder J. C. Jones was elected Moderator, A. F. Bell, Clerk, and Elder D. Manasco, Mt. Olive, Corresponding Secretary.

5 Ministers, not Delegates, were invited to participate in the deliberations of the body, and the right hand

given by the Moderator.

6. Opened the door for the reception of churches wishing to unite with the North River Association, when petionary letters were presented by their Delegates, from the following Churches, viz: Bethabara, Mt. Joy; Mt. Moriah, Mt. Olive; also, Hopewell, a Church that waswithdrawn from, by the Association, for failing to represent herself in the same, according to the constitutional rule, presented a letter by her Delegates asking restoration.—The letters were read, the Churches received, and the right hand of fellowship extended to their Delegates by the Moderator.

7. The following Committees were then appointed by

the Moderator, viz:

On Arrangement of Business. D. G. Kirkland, S. A. Smith and Moses Walters, to which were added by mostion, the Moderator and Clerk.

On Documents-Robert Adkins, J. E. Cox, B. V.

Shirley, D. Manasco and Wm. L. Hill.

On Preaching—J. H. Wade, Wm. Randolph, W. A. Edmonds, D. G. Kirkland and Elder B. V. Shirley.

On Finance-J. W. Roberts, Samuel Walton and Wm.

A. Edmonds.

On Deccased Ministers—Elders S A. Smith, R. Ad-kins and brother Moses Walters.

On Nominations-Wm. Cobb, B. Willingham, and T.

L. Willingham.

8. Called for Correspondence, and received from the Yellow Creek Association, by her Messenger, Jas. Middleton, a package of Minutes, but no Letter. From the Tuscaloosa Association, by her Messengers, Eider E. Howell, brothers John Thomas and E. Meltor, a Letter, but no Minutes, all of which were cordially received—The Moderator extended the right hand of fellowship and invited them to seats with us.

9. The committee on preaching reported the following arrangement: For to-night, Elders S. A. Sm th and R. Adkins, to preach; for Sabbath, Elder David Manasco, to conduct a prayer meeting at 9 o'clock, Elder J. J.

Watts to preach at 1 o'clock.

10. Returned: Correspondence as follows: To the Yellow Creek Association, Elder L. B. Harbin, brothers W. A. Edmonds and M. Shire, Messengers. To the Tuscaloosa Association, Elders L. B. Harbin, J. C. Jones, B. V. Shirley, D. Manasco, S. A. Smith and Robert Adkins, Messengers. To the Canaan Association, Elders D. Manasco, S. A. Smith, and brothers Henry Butler and Jas. Beck, Messengers. The letters to corresponding bodies were read and adopted.

11. Adjourned till half past 8 o'clock Monday morn-

ing. Prayer by E'der J. J. Watis.

Sabbath, 9 o'clock—Prayer meeting conducted by Eld. D. Manasco. At 11 o'clock, according to appointment of last Association, Eld. L. B. Harbin addressed a large and attentive assembly, on the subject of the duty of Prstors to their Caurches, and the duty of Churches to their Pastors, from Rev. 2 chap, latter clause of the 10th verse, "be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life." After which a public collection was taken up, amounting to \$7,75. One o'clock, Elder J. J. Watts preached to the same audience from 1st John, 3d chap., 1st and 2d verses, "Behold what manner of love," &c., and from apparent indications we believe that good will result to the cause of Christ.

Monday Morning, Sept. 24.

12. The Association met pursuant to adjournment. -

Prayer by Elder D. Manasco.

13. Called for, read, received, and adopted the report of the Committee on arrangement, and discharged the Committee.

14. Suspended the rule of the reading of the Consti-

tution, Rules of Decorum and Articles of Faith.

15. Called for, received and adopted the Treasurers

report, as follows: Received of the Association \$38,05, paid the Clerk \$10 for his services, and \$27,70 for printing Minutes.

16. Appointed A. F. Bell, Treasurer.

17. Called for, received, read and adopted the report of Book Agent, as follows: I have on hand Seven Dollars worth of books at Confederate prices, unsold. Respectfully submitted.

D. Manasco.

18. Called for, received, read and adopted the report of Committee on deceased Ministers, as follows: Your Committee on deceased Ministers, beg to report that we have abundant reason to be thankful to Almighty God that there has been no death in our bounds of any Ministers. Respectfully submitted, S. A. SMITH, Chairman.

19. Called for, received and adopted the report of District Meetings: 1st. District, to be held with Fayetteville Church, commencing on Saturday before the first Sabbath in September, 1867; Elder L. B. Harbin to preach the Introductory Sermon, Elder B. V. Shirley, alternate. Appointed the next session of the Association to be held with Shepherd Church, 12 miles south of Fayette C. H. Ala. 2d. District to be held with Liberty Grove Church, commencing Saturday before the second Sabbath in September, 1867; Elder S. A. Smith to preach the Introductory Sermon, Elder R. M. Atkins, alternate; Elder D. Manasco to preach on Sabbath, on a subject of his own choice, Elder B. B. Smith, alternate.

20. Called for, received and adopted the report of the Committee on Nominations, as follows: Elder S. A. Smith to preach the Introductory Sermon, Elder D. Manasco, alternate: Elder L. B. Harbin to preach on Salbath

at 11 o'clock, Eld. J. C. Jones, alternate.

B. WILLINGHAM, Chairmán.

21. Called for the report of the Committee on Documents, received and adopted, as follows: The Committee beg leave to report that we find nothing that claims our special attention, save a letter that was handed to us, which we recommend to the Body for examination.

R. ADKINS, Chairman.

22. The letter above alluded to, was read, which elicited considerable debate, after which the Moderator decided that it was not within the power of this Body to grant the request contained in the letter.

23. Called for, received and adopted the report of the Committee on Finance, as follows: Received \$27,70 for Minutes, \$10,25 for Associational purposes, paid the Treasurer \$35,05.

J. W. Roberts, Chairman.

24. Called for the report of the Ministers under ap-

pointment of last Association, to labor for the object specified in the 33d Article of the Minutes of the same—received and adopted, viz: DEAR BRETHREN.—Under your direction, I traveled and preached twenty days, and received from Fayetteville Church \$2, from the First District \$1. Humbly submitted, L. B. HABBIN.

DEAR BRETHREN.—Under appointment of your Body we traveled and preached, each, eighteen days. Respectfully submitted, D. MANASCO & S. A. SMITH.

Elder J. C. Jones, stated that the reason he did not fill

his appointment, was on account of affliction.

Whereas, From the above reports, it appearing that the Association was \$53 in arrears with those Ministers for their services, on motion, it was agreed that we raise the funds by individual contributions, and we succeeded in raising by subscription and cash \$46,10, leaving a balance due them of \$6,90.

25. Adjourned till 2 o'clock. Prayer by D. Manasco.
26. Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by brother Cox.

27. The following resolution, offered by Elder J. J. Watts, after a short discussion, was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we advise our Churches that each of their members that are heads of families, plant one acre of land, half in cotton and half in corn, and apply the product of the same to the payment of their Pastors,—If any cannot plant one acre, that they plant half an acre and apply in the same way.

The Association suspended business and engaged in prayer to Atmighty God for his blessing upon our efforts

in that direction, led by Elder L. B. Harbin.

28. On motion of brother Fergusson, adopted the fol-

lowing resolution:

Resolved, That this Association request the Churches in her union, to meet at their respective houses of worship and spend the 25th day of Dec. in religious service.

29. Brother Edmonds offered the following resolution,

which was adopted:

Resolved, That this Body recommend to the different Churches comprising the North River Association, that they commemorate the death and sufferings of Christ by the administration of his Supper quarterly; say February, May, August and November, and that the surrounding churches appoint brethren to visit et all communion seasons to commune, one church with another, and that the Pastors call for corresponding brethren on Saturday, in time of conference.

30. Adopted a resolution offered by Elder D. Manasco:

Resolved, That we advise our Churches to spend Friedry before the first Lord's day in November next, in fasting and prayer, by meeting at their respective houses of worship, and every three months thereafter; and that our Ministers are hereby requested to instruct the people up-

on that subject.

31. On motion, it was ordered that the Clerk superintend the printing of the Minutes of this session, and that he have as many copies printed as the Minute Fund will procure, and distribute as usual, reserving 45 copies for corresponding Associations. Also, that the Constitution, Rules of Decorum and Articles of Faith, be printed in these Minutes, and that the Clerk be allowed \$10 for his services.

32. Brother D. G. Kirkland offered the following reso-

lution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That we hereby recommend to our Churches the propriety of making a distinction between their Minute and Association funds, and contribute to the Associational Fund more liberal than her etofore,

33. Appointed L. B. Harbin distributing agent in the

First District, and D. Manasco, in the second.

34. Called names of Delegates and marked absentees. 35 'Read and corrected the Minutes of this session.

36. Resolved, That the sincere thanks of this Body are hereby tendered to the Union Church and vicinity, for their hospitality and kindness to us during the present session.

37. On motion, adjourned to meet with Sherpherd Church, Saturday before the first Sabbath in September, 1807. Prayer by Elder A. M. King. The Delegates sung a song and took the parting hand. Benediction by Eld. D: W. Andrews.

J. C. JONES, Moderator.

A. F. Bell, Clerk.

Baptist Declaration of Faith.

1. On the Scriptures.—We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, Salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian Union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

2. Of the True God.—That there is one true and living God, whose name is Jehovah, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and Earth, inexpressibly glorious in holiness; worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; revealed under the personal and relative distinction of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

3. Of the Fall of Man.—That man was created in a state of holiness, under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but by choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness, required by the law of God, wholy given to the gratification of the world, of Satan, and of their own sinful passions, and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defence or excuse,

4. Of the Way of Salvation.—That the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the law by his personal obedience, and made at mement for our sins by his death being arisen from the dead, He is enthroned in Heaven, and uniting in this wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, is every way qual fied to be a suitable, a compassionate, and all sufficient Savior.

5. Of Justifica ion.—That the great Gospel Blessing, which Christ of his fulness bestows on such as believe in Him, is justification; that justification consists in the pardon of sin and the promise of eternal life, on principles of righteousness, that it is not bestowed in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through its own redemption and righteousness, that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

6. Of the Freeness of Salvation.—That the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial and obedient faith, and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, except his own volentary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ; which refusal will submit him to an aggravated condemnation.

7. Of Grace in Regeneration — that in order to be saved, we must be regenerated and born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind, and is effected in a manner above our comprehension or calculation, by the power of the Holy Spirit, so as

to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel, and that its proper evidence is our voluntary obedience found in the holy fruit which we bring forth to the glory of God.

8. Of God's Purpose of Grace.—That election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which he regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistant with the moral agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable, that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God; and active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it is ascertained by its effects in all who believe the Gospel; it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves, demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

9. Of the Preservance of Saints.—That such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the Grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

10. Harmony of the Law and G-spel.—That the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and the inability which the Scriptures as ribe to fallen men to fulfil its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of his visible Church.

11. Of a Gospel Church.—That a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of baptised believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by his laws and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His word; that its only proper officers are bishops or pastors, and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the espistles to Timothy and Titus.

12. Of Baptism and the Lord's Surper.—That Christian Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in a crucified, buried and risen Savior; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation, and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church, by the use of bread

and wine, are to commomorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self examination.

13. Of the Christian Subbath.—That the first day of the week is the Lord's day, or Christian Subbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and recreation by the devout observance of all the means of grace both private and public; and by preparation for that rest which remaineth for the people of God.

14. Of Chil Government — That civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good of human society; and that megistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed except in things opposed to the will of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of

the earth.

15. Of the Righteous and Wicked.—That there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such as only through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteons in his esteem, while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse, and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

16. Of the World to come.—That the end of this world is approaching and that at the last day, Christ will descend from Heaven and ruise the dead from the grave to final retribution: that a separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgement will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell,

on principles of righteousness.

Constitution of the North-River Baptist Association.

We, the Baptist Churches of Jesus Christ are desirous of a reciprocal Union, we therefore propose to maintain the order and rules of the Association, according to the

following plan:

We believe that the Churches of Christ are mutually independent of each other, and that the congregational form of church government should be inviolably preserved, yet being convinced of the utility of friendly intercourse and pious councils on the principles of reciprocal advantage and christian love, we hold it to be the duty of the Churches to pay respect on these principles to the advice of the Association. 1st. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different Churches in our Union, who, on producing letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment shall be entitled to seats, the letters so produced shall express the condition of their churches respectively, viz: The number in fellowship, the number received by Baptism, by restoration; dismissed, excommunicated and dead since the last Association, which letters shall be read and the Delegates names enrolled.

2d. The members thus chosen and convened, shall be known by the name of the North River Baptist Asso-

ciation.

3rd. We declare ourselves a Missionary Body on the following plan: The Association may appoint an Executive Committee, whose duty it shall be to employ a Missionary or Missionaries to travel and preach the Gospel to the destitute in her bounds, and to enlarge their field of labor if necessary, and furthermore, it shall be the duty of said Committee to appoint a Treasurer to take charge of all the noney paid over by the several Churches for the support of the Mission; also said Treasurer shall make a correct report at each and every Annual Session of this Body, of all money received, expenditures, and the surplus on hand, if any, which report shall be affixed to the minutes of the Association.

4th. The Association thus formed, shall choose by ballot, a Moderator and Clerk, who shall serve one year.

5th. This Body shall have no coersive power to lord it over God's heritage, or to infringe on any of the internal privileges or rights of the Churches in our union, but shall only be considered an advisory council in all

matters respecting their internal concerns.

6th. To give Churches the best advice she can in all matters of difficulty, and if the union should be broken between any of the sixter Churches, to inquire into the cause of the breach and use her best endeavors to remove the difficulty, but if the breach cannot be repaired to withdraw from any Cherch or Churches which they may look upon to be unsound in principle or immoral in practice until the same be reclaimed.

7th. To take up no case of any Church in the union,

without the consent of a majority of the Church.

8th. Newly constituted or dismissed Churches may be received into our union by their representatives as before stated, and the Moderator shall signify the same by giving the right hand of fellowship.

9th. The Association when convened shall be governed by such rules as she may adopt. She may adjourn from day to day until she shall have finished all the business that may be brought before her.

10th. Every Church numbering fifty members, or less, shall be entitled to three Delegates, and for every twen-

ty-five members over fifty, one Delegate.

11th. To have the Minutes of the Association read and altered, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association rises, and have them printed if she thinks proper.

12th. The Association shall in all cases be governed

by a majority of the members.

13th. Voting shall be confined exclusively to the Body

in all acts respecting their internal concerns.

14th. To amend the plan or form of government at any time when a majority of the union shall deem it necessary.

Rules of Decorum.

1st. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

2d. But one person shall speak at a time, and he shall

arise to his feet and address the Moderator.

3rd. No member shall be interrupted while speaking unless he depart from the question, or use words of personal reflection.

4th. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, except with-

drawn by him who made it.

5th. Every case taken up by the Association shall be

decided or withdrawn before another is offered.

6th. When any question is taken up by the Association, after allowing time for debate, the Moderator shall take the question by yeas and nays, or otherwise; and the decision thus made shall be announced by the Moderator immediately.

7th. No person shall depart from the service of the

Association without leave of the Moderator.

8th. No person shall speak more than twice upon the same subject without leave obtained.

9th. The appellation of brother shall be used in our

address one to another.

10th. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege as any other, member, provided he appoints some other member to fill his seat while speaking or otherwise, but shall not vote unless the Association be equally divided.

11th. Any member violating the above rules may be reproved as the Association may think proper, only on the day the offence shall have occurred.

C New Prospect, E Hermon, S Friendship,	teville, sethel, seth,	
Notrepresented,	Table for OST OFFICE. Payette G. II., Plerims Rest, Sewfonville, Steffield, Ashin, Avette G. II., Pleville, Pleville, Pleville, Asper,	
	PASTORS. PASTORS. L. B. Harbin, Not represented, L. B. Harbin, L. B. Harbin, L. B. Harbin, L. C. Jones, J. A. Kinifey, R. A. Kinifey, D. Manasco, J. Manasco, J. M. Smith, D. Manasco, J. A. Smith, S.	
¢2	Baptized, 188888492182888	
63	Ree'd by Letter, 800889000 20090000000000000000000000000	
6	Restored, 8888-1848-1888-1888-1884	
85 E	Dismissed, Commissed,	
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260	Sabbath Meetgls-1 gradge 8 6 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8	
Collected on Sablath \$7,75, making the fund for Associational purposses \$10,35. Paid the Clerk \$7,50, and L. B. Harbin \$2,85, making \$10,35.		

Received of St. F. Bell, Clerk, \$27,70, for prinking 454 Copies of these Minutes ._

William G. ONurrist.

